

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall – Room 306

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

August 1, 2013

Open Session

Mr. Monteiro called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Members present: Timothy Conley, Anthony Ferreira, Richard Pimentel, Joel Monteiro. Also present: Kim Mercer, Superintendent of Schools, Julie Motta, Director of Education, Robert M. Silva, Esq. and Andrew Thomas, Esq.

Motion by Mr. Pimentel to convene in Executive Session for purposes of discussing:

Personnel – R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (1); Collective Bargaining R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2);

Litigation/Pending Litigation-R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2)

Return to Public Session at 7:30 PM. Motion by Mr. Conley to return to public session and to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 5-0.

Report Executive Session Votes – No votes taken.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag & Moment of Silence observed.

Discussion Item(s)

Update on Construction Bond and Final Scope of Work

Kim Mercer stated that NEASC had included the following concerns regarding unresolved facilities issues in the high school science department: lack of sufficient laboratories to support science instruction; lack of any ADA work stations in any of the science education classroom/lab areas; lack of water, electricity, gas, emergency shower and eye wash station, and operable fume hood in the one lab (shared by chemistry and biology); absence of technology available to the teacher for instruction or for the students' use in applications of the curriculum in the same science lab; and, the cluttered condition of the chemical storage area which has unlocked chemical cabinets on shelving and counters. Superintendent worked with the architects to see if the issue could be addressed now; \$173,000 for a state of art science room and hood to be connected to a second lab would be a good beginning; if we don't do it now while other work is being done, we would be putting things back and then would have to rip out again at another time. This is a good state of the art lab for students and would address NEASC concerns; requested that the School Committee discuss the scope of work and if agreed the work could be completed before the opening of school with the

exception of casework in the lab which will arrive two weeks into the school year; this is not an issue for students since the lab would not be used for the first couple weeks of school.

Discussion: Mr. Ferreira requested a list of the work that still needs to be done and how much it will cost. Mr. Catelli can have architects explain construction items by school and what will be done; at SC next week so the public can understand it.

Action Items

Approval of Final Scope of Work

Motion by Mr. Conley to approve Item #1 \$178,000 to renovate science labs at the high school, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 4-0 to approve.

Motion to approve the work on two bathrooms at Waddington School (to include savings from tile work-decrease in terrazzo and ceramic floor tile), seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 4-0.

Appointment of Agnes B. Hennessey School Principal

Superintendent Kim Mercer recommended the appointment of Carrie

McWilliams to the position of Principal of Hennessey School, effective August 2, 2013. Motion to approve by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 4-0.

Public Comment

Fred Rybka requested clarification on the work being done at Waddington. Mr. Conley responded that the left wing at Waddington School is being converted to Early Learning Center.

Discussion regarding work on Public Address systems at Waddington, High School and Martin Middle School.

Mr. Catelli stated that he is in the process of completing a five year plan for capital expenses for 2014; School Committee will be discussing this with City Council members.

Jessica Beauchaine expressed concern regarding the High School Accreditation and the computers for PARC exams.

Mr. Monteiro stated that the Superintendent will present information at the August 13th meeting regarding the NEASC Report and Accreditation; the School Committee is concerned and plans to address items ignored by past administrations. As far as PARCC, the elementary schools do not have space for labs but will use laptop carts; there will be an increase in the labs at the high school.

Mr. Conley stated that the high school has been on warning since 2008 and everyone needs to know about this; the high school needs to be fixed and that will cost money. ADA compliance is included.

Mr. Monteiro stated that the School Committee hopes to have an update at the next meeting on the high school.

Michelle Savory, Brook Avenue, asked if the work at Waddington will be completed before school opens, including fire alarm.

Sherri Forsythe was happy that everyone is being straight forward; she has faith in the School Committee.

Mrs. Miller was concerned about questions regarding money from city tax bills for middle school sports; the School Committee has no idea about it and there has been no follow up.

Discussion: Finance Director, Malcolm Moore, explained that the details have not yet been refined; there is about \$7-8 thousand dollars under the charge of the City Council; he has not yet heard from Principals.

Chrissy Rossi spoke about the tax money allocated to middle school sports and how to go about accessing the funds by creating a policy

Motion by Mr. Ferreira to adjourn at 10:00PM, seconded by Mr. Pimentel. Vote 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Elizabeth Clupny, Clerk of the Committee